

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO A REVISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN RUTELINAE
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE).

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[Read 29th March, 1961.]

Synopsis.

The validity of *Amblyterus simplicitarsus* Carne, described from a single male, is confirmed by the examination of additional specimens of both sexes. Plesioallotypes of both this species, and *A. clypealis* Ohaus, are designated.

INTRODUCTION.

Since his revision of the Australian Rutelinae was published (Carne, 1958), the author has seen a large volume of additional material. Several undescribed species and one possibly new genus have been noted, but the specimens so far available are not considered adequate for their description. The purpose of the present note is to describe the opposite sexes of two species of *Amblyterus* Macleay that were previously known from a single sex only.

AMBLYTERUS SIMPLICITARSUS Carne.

Amblyterus simplicitarsus Carne, 1958, *Aust. J. Zool.*, 6 (2): 226.

♂. The original description, based on a single specimen, requires slight modification. Length 13–15 mm. Pronotum with basal ridge continuous, disk sometimes with a distinct median longitudinal impression. Elytron with 3rd interval appreciably costate, 5th and 7th only rarely so. Fore tibial teeth subequal; hind tibia only rarely with proximal carina developed. Pygidium with long erect hairs over most of disc, especially numerous at sides.

♀ Length 16–17 mm. Clypeal disc swollen but with marginal ridge distinct and with dorsal profile similar to that of ♂. Clypeofrontal suture transverse but scarcely discernible. Pronotum more strongly convex, sides evenly rounded. Fore tibial teeth variable: broad and heavily sclerotized in one example, less robust and similar to those of ♂ in two others. Pygidial vestiture relatively sparse.

Specimens examined: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (one designated as a plesioallotype) (BM); 1 ♂ (National Museum, Melbourne); 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (Division of Entomology Museum). All labelled "Queensland, Challenger Expedition, 85–44".

The type locality of the species is the Clarence River district of north-eastern New South Wales.

AMBLYTERUS CLYPEALIS Ohaus.

Amblyterus clypealis Ohaus, 1904, *Stettin. ent. Ztg.*, 65: 165; Carne, 1958, *Aust. J. Zool.*, 6 (2): 227.

Specimens of a female *Amblyterus* from south-eastern Queensland were found to agree with that labelled as a cotype of *clypealis* by Ohaus. A study of the associated males confirmed both the validity of the species and its close relationship to *A. tarsalis* Lea.

♂. Length 15½–17½ mm. Terminal segment of maxillary palp almost as long as clypeus, dorsal surface with a broad flat sensorium. Antenna with club and shaft subequal in length. Clypeus transverse, evenly rounded in dorsal profile; disc flat, with margins evenly recurved.

Pronotum with sides contracted anterior to obtuse basal angles, disc with a median longitudinal impression, marginal ridges continuous. Scutellum smooth, micro-punctate at base. Elytra with epipleural setae darker than those of thorax, and

becoming conspicuously longer anteriorly. Fore tibia without a spur, teeth equidistant; fore tarsus with ventral tufts of fine hairs. Hind tibia bicarinate; spurs short, the smaller about half length of larger, and separated by 3-5 ciliae; hind tarsus with first three segments longitudinally grooved, terminal segment with a ventral notch.

Pygidium flat, subvertical; disc with shallow confluent punctures bearing decumbent pale yellow hairs and, on apical half, erect brown hairs. Abdomen with erect hairs across all segments and with decumbent short paler hairs at sides only. Genitalia similar to those of *bundabergensis* and *tibialis*.

♀. Examination of additional females has not resulted in the need to modify the writer's earlier description of this sex except to note that, as with *simplicitarsus*, two types of female can be recognized: one with coarse heavily-sclerotized fore tibiae (comparable to those of ♀ *cicatricosus*) and stout hind legs, the other with these appendages of similar structure to those of the male. Insufficient specimens are available for this variation to be analysed, but it would appear that robustness of the legs is positively correlated, in both species, with the size of the individual female.

Specimens examined: 1 ♂ "South Isis, H. Tryon" (Queensland Dept. Agriculture & Stock); 1 ♂ (designated as a plesioallotype), 2 ♀♀ "Childers, 19.12.26, at lights, R. W. Mungomery" (South Australian Museum); 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ of identical label data (British Museum). The type locality of the species is Cleveland, South Queensland.

The British Museum collections contain a single unidentifiable female *Amblyterus* labelled "Western Australia". If this specimen is correctly labelled it represents the first record of the genus from that State.

The only other undescribed species of note is a striking iridescent green ruteline that has affinities with both *Epichrysus* White and *Anoplostethus* Guér. It is represented in the Strasbourg Museum by two males labelled "Austral. Coll. Schwarzenberg". While its morphological affinities strongly suggest that it is of Australian origin, its description must await confirmation of this supposition.

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Reference.

CARNE, P. B., 1958.—A review of the Australian Rutelinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *Aust. J. Zool.*, 6 (2): 162-240.